

ABSTRACT

Background: Child hood poisoning covers the entire gamut from accidental ingestion in toddlers and preschool children to intentional over dosage in adolescents..

Aims and Objectives: Our study is aimed at finding out the clinic-epidemiological profile of poisoning regarding age, sex, type of poison, manner of poisoning, common clinical features, duration between poisoning and presentation to hospital , duration of hospital stay ,to find out the different agents involved , duration of ICU stay, pre referral treatment and treatment given and evaluating the outcome of those children admitted with Poisoning in NICU,PICU and paediatric ward at GMKMCH, Salem

Materials and methods: All children below 12 years of age admitted during the one year study period with a history of poisoning were included. Animal bites, snake and scorpion envenomation, chronic poisoning, drug allergy were excluded. All children were examined, investigated and treated according to hospital policy .Outcome of poisoning were recorded.

Results: There were 143 cases of children with poisoning admitted. Accidental poisoning constituted 88.1% cases (n126), 7.7% (n11) were suicidal and the remaining 4.2% (n6) were homicidal. In most of the cases poisoning was due to hydrocarbons followed by pesticides. kerosene oil was the most common substance followed by OPC. The higher incidence of poisoning was found in lower middle socio economic class 65.7% (n136) an analysis of the outcome showed that 95.1% were discharged home and death in 4.9% (n7) cases.

Conclusion: The highest incidence of poisoning was observed in children below 5 years of age and from lower middle socio economic group. Most of the poisons were household products and the most common nature of exposure was accidental in most of the cases, recovery was complete.

Key words: Childhood poisoning, Accidental, hydrocarbons, Outcome.